

Message

From: Tabuchi, Hiroko [hiroko.tabuchi@nytimes.com]
Sent: 4/2/2018 6:03:20 PM
To: Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Press [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: Urgent: Seeking confirmation on these talking points for the upcoming emissions announcement

I'm being told these are EPA talking points for the upcoming emissions announcement and that they closely track the final determination document. Are you able to confirm? And will that final determination document be made public today? Thanks, Hiroko

In 2012, EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) set greenhouse gas (GHG) and Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for light-duty vehicles starting in Model Year (MY) 2017 - 2025. As part of the 2012 rulemaking, EPA made a regulatory commitment to conduct a Midterm Evaluation of the standards for MY 2022-2025 no later than April 1, 2018. This Evaluation would determine whether the standards remain appropriate or should be made more or less stringent.

In November 2016, the Obama Administration cut short the Midterm Evaluation process and rushed out a Final Determination days before leaving office, on January 12, 2017. Since then, the auto industry and other stakeholders sought a reinstatement of the original Midterm Evaluation timeline, so that the Agency could review the latest information.

On March 15, 2017, President Trump alongside EPA Administrator Pruitt and U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao announced a reestablishment of the Midterm Evaluation process.

In August 2017, EPA and NHTSA formally reopened the regulatory docket initiating a 45-day comment period asking for additional information and data relevant to assessing whether the GHG emissions standards remain appropriate, including information on: consumer behavior, feedback on modeling approaches, costs and assessing advanced fuels technologies.

EPA held a public hearing in Washington, DC, on September 6, 2017. By the end of the comment period, EPA received over 290,000 comments.

Based on EPA's review and analysis of the comments and information received, and the Agency's own analysis, the Administrator believes that the current GHG emission standards for MY 2022-2025 light-duty vehicles are not appropriate and should be revised.

Future changes to the standards will ensure that auto-manufacturers can make cars that consumers both want and can afford. They will also treat all advanced vehicle technologies the same, including the potential of natural gas vehicles and the role of high-octane fuels. EPA will continue its close partnership with NHTSA to ensure there is adequate consideration of any potential impacts on automobile safety.

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